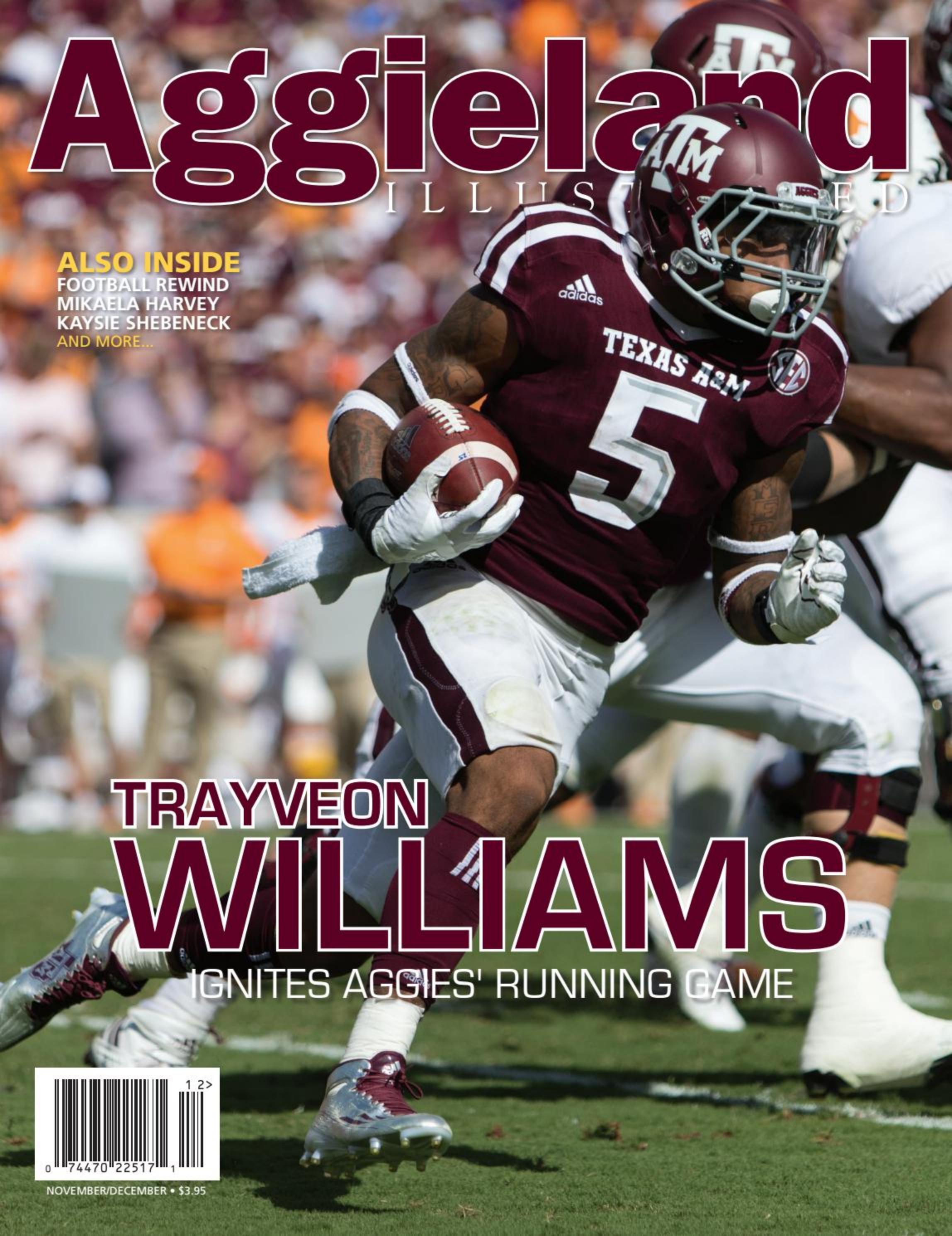


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On the Cover: Trayveon Williams turns the corner around the Volunteer defense. Photo by Sarah Pyatt '14.



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Howdy Ags!

This was an extremely exciting issue to put together. Our football team raced out of the blocks to a perfect 6-0 record with one of the toughest schedules in the country. The Aggies were unranked going into the season and most experts weren't expecting much from the team this year. Inside, we recapped the games we won and described how the team woke up the country by ascending into the top 10.

Trevor Knight has become the leader we all hoped he would become. He has been instrumental in the success of this year's team. Blessed with maturity and wisdom, he has led the team with his arm, his feet and his unbelievable determination to help this squad win. His football story is like a made for TV movie and he is motivated to give it a fantastic ending.

Noel Mazzone has been just what the doctor ordered. He brought a lifetime of experience to the Aggie coaching staff. The team has thrived under his play calling. Using a balanced attack, he turned Texas A&M into a running team. The addition of Coach Jim Turner has also been a huge difference for our team as the veteran coach has made an instant impact on our young offensive line. Under the direction of these two men the Aggies have been able to win big games on the ground, which is so important in the SEC.

Our defense has flourished under second year coach John Chavis. The linebacker play has greatly improved and Coach David Turner has done a great job with our defensive line. Aggies were anxious to see the return of the Wrecking Crew, but Chavis has put his own signature on this team. Chavis explained to them before one of the games, "The strength of the wolf lies in the pack, and the strength of the pack lies in the wolf." Chavis has directed this team to play together with the strength of the pack and to be that strong wolf, adding, "Nobody eats till the prey is dead." If that doesn't fire you up, I'm not sure what will. Our team is ready to eat!

I am dedicating this issue to my oldest son. Below is a picture of me placing his senior ring on his finger this fall, and it was one of the proudest moments of my life! I raised him to be an Aggie. His first word was Aggie, and he has worked so hard to accomplish his goals. I love you Dan!

Gig'em Ags!

Rob '88



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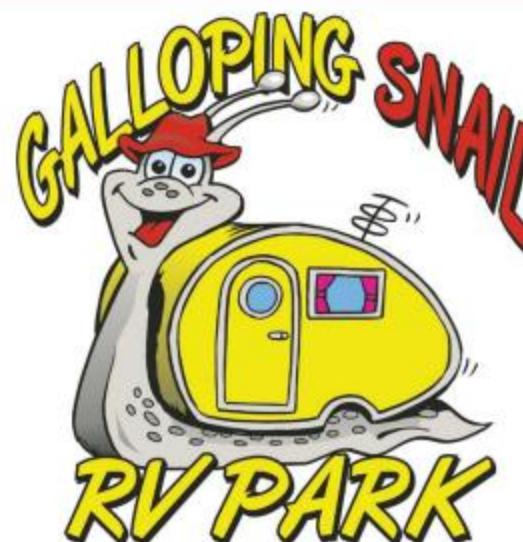


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oh, beautiful for spacious skies...

Lt. Commander Christopher Edwards of Texas A&M and U.S. Navy Captain Stan Jones of Tennessee flew the lead jet together before the Ags game against the Vols on October 8, 2016. Three F/A-18 Super Hornets, which can go up to 1200 mph, buzzed the crowd from 2,000 ft. above Kyle Field!

Photos by Sarah Pyatt '14.









catching dimes...

Josh Reynolds looks in at this over-the-shoulder ball from Trevor Knight for a big play against Tennessee. Reynolds had five catches for 89 yards and a touchdown in the epic contest. He continues to make key plays for the Aggies in every game.

Photo by Sarah Pyatt '14.

snapshot

giving it up...

Trevor Knight celebrates a rushing touchdown against UCLA during the overtime victory over the Bruins. The graduate transfer is quick to give thanks after every score. His character on and off the field should make all Aggies very proud.

Photo by Rob Havens '88.

TOUCHDOWN





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[volleyball] The Aggie Volleyball Team is almost halfway through their conference schedule and own a 5-2 record in SEC play. Led by Kiara McGee, Kaitlyn Blake and Jazzmin Babers, the team had a five match-winning streak and looks to carry that momentum into the second half of the season. The Aggies are currently in fourth place and are determined to battle for another SEC Championship!



scoreboard



[soccer] The Aggies have had a tough fall due in large part to injuries amongst key players. The team jumped out to a 7-2 start but after beating UC Riverside on September 18th, the Aggies went winless for a month and now will probably have to win out to get an NCAA bid.



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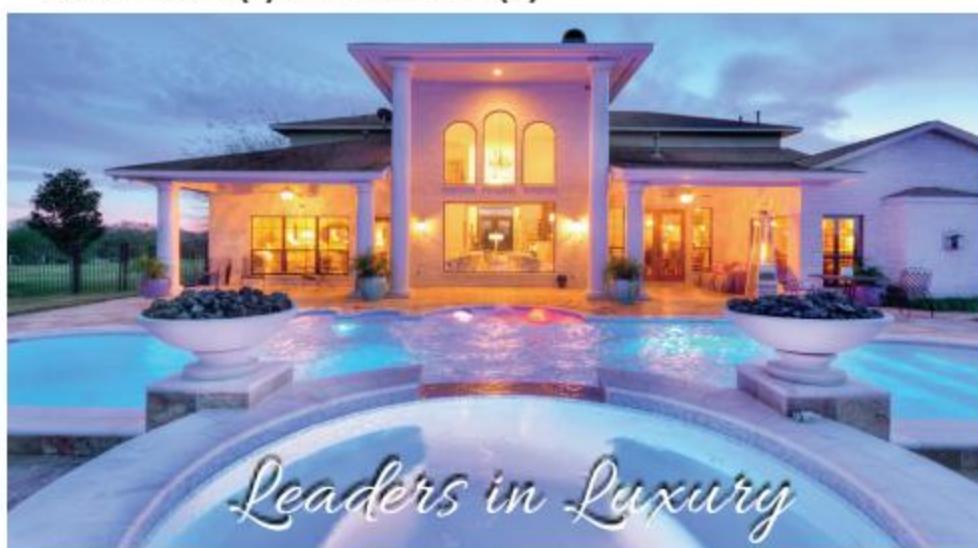
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TEAM



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[GAME 1: A&M 31, UCLA 24]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



vs.



The 2016 Aggie offense, under the direction of former UCLA Offensive Coordinator Noel Mazzone, took the field against the Bruins on a hot September afternoon in front of a national audience. There were plenty of unanswered questions as the Aggies had a new starting quarterback in Trevor Knight, who had left Oklahoma as a graduate transfer. The team did not disappoint, as they won an overtime thriller 31-24. In his debut, Knight threw for 239 yards and a touchdown, on top of running for two more scores. The Aggies led by 15 going into the fourth quarter, but the Bruins wouldn't go away and tied the game late to send it into overtime. On fourth and one, Coach Sumlin gambled and Knight delivered strolling into the end zone untouched to give the Aggies the lead. Justin Evans knocked down Josh Rosen' final attempt on fourth down to seal the victory for the Ags.

[GAME 2: A&M 67, PVAM 0]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



The Aggies faced Prairie View A&M for the first time in program history during game two of the season. The Ags hammered the Panthers, rolling up 672 yards of offense while holding Prairie View to 205. Knight had another great outing throwing for 344 yards and three touchdowns and adding another score on the ground. It was that largest shutout defeat since September 18, 1993, when the Aggies destroyed the Missouri Tigers 73-0. Oklahoma transfer, Keith Ford showed off his skills rushing for two touchdowns on eight carries for 62 yards. The Aggies had 13 different receivers produce catches in the contest as Coach Sumlin emptied the bench on the overmatched Panthers. Regardless of the opponent, it is quite a feat to pitch a shutout and Coach Chavis defense was up to the challenge. They only allowed the Panthers two scoring opportunities, a blocked field goal and a missed attempt, which resulted in the shutout.

[GAME 3: A&M 29, AUBURN 16]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AGGIE ATHLETICS



The 17th ranked Aggies went on the road to take on their first SEC road-game opponent in the Auburn Tigers. Since joining the SEC, the visiting team in this series has come out on top the last four years and the Aggies, at least for this year, were looking to continue that streak. Daniel LaCamera kicked five field goals in the game and the Aggie defense made the stops when they needed to giving the Aggies a 29-16 win over the Tigers. It was a coming out party for freshman Trayveon Williams, who sealed the victory with an 89-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter. Myles Garret had two sacks in the game and Daeshon Hall had a huge stop on fourth down late in the game to keep Auburn out of the end zone. Trevor Knight used his legs to help the Aggies generate several first downs. He threw for 247 yards and led the team to its first SEC win of the year.

[GAME 4: A&M 45, ARKANSAS 24]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



vs.



The Southwest Classic between Texas A&M and Arkansas has been a nail biter the last two years with the Aggies rushing the field in celebration after two overtime victories. This years installment gave the Aggies a fifth straight win in the series, but it was much easier getting to our cars after the game as Hog fans left early when the Ags lit up the scoreboard. A game highlighted by goal line stands and big plays, this contest could have been called "Thunder and Lightning". Our defense provided the thunder with two huge goal line stands against one of the most physical lines in the country, and the lightning was provided by Trevor Knight, Josh Reynolds and Trayveon Williams. Knight and Reynolds connected on a 92-yard play that changed the game. Williams and Knight combined for over 300 yards on the ground and four touchdowns!



[GAME 5: A&M 24, SOUTH CAROLINA 13]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



The #9 Aggies were a little beat up after a blowout win over the undefeated Hogs. With the Tennessee Vols looming and a top 10 showdown around the corner, the game against South Carolina could have been a trap game for the Aggies. When the Gamecocks' A.J. Turner took the first play from scrimmage for a 75-yard touchdown, A&M knew they were in for a fight. The team pounded away using the ground game to generate 216 yards of rushing offense. Knight managed the game using his legs and arm to win another SEC road game. The defense only allowed six points after the initial miscue and the Ags remained undefeated after five games. Myles Garrett, Speedy Noil, Ricky Seals-Jones and Jermaine Eluemunor all missed the game due to injuries. The team won their third straight on the road, and were anxious to return home to Kyle.

[GAME 6: A&M 45, TENNESSEE 38]



▲ PHOTOS OF THE GAME



In one of the biggest games of the decade, #8 Texas A&M defeated #9 Tennessee in an epic game that will go down in the history books. The Aggies jumped out to a 21-7 lead at the half, but the Vols would not go away. When Trevor Knight scampered down the field for a 62 yard touchdown to give the Ags a 14 point lead with 3:22 to go, it seemed like the Ags would remain unbeaten. But Joshua Dobbs brought the Vols back and tied up the game with 41 seconds left in regulation. Daniel LaCamera missed a 38-yard field goal as time expired to set up the fantastic finish. Texas A&M matched the Vols in the first overtime as both teams settled for field goals. In the second OT, Knight connected with a sliding Christian Kirk at the one-yard line to set up the winning touchdown. Knight kept the ball raced around the corner and fought through contact to get the winning score. Armani Watts intercepted Dobbs on their first play of double OT to clinch the win and set off mass hysteria at Kyle Field.



Q&A with

MIKAELA HARVEY

BY ROB HAVENS '88

When did you first start playing soccer?

I first started playing when I was five years old. I'm from Liberty Hill, Texas which is a small town, and I played for a local club there and my dad was my coach. He grew up playing soccer and he played soccer in college and he just figured stick me in there and see how it goes. I just played for a small club.

So you just played from then on? Did you play other sports?

I played a few sports here and there but soccer has always been my main focus.

Tell me about the recruiting process that brought you to A&M.

During my freshman year in high school I had some schools that were interested in me. I was kind of young so I wasn't really thinking about it. In my sophomore year I got serious about it and I was looking at schools. I knew I wanted to stay in Texas so I could stay close to my family, I was looking at schools in the area and I chose to come here.

How did you make the decision to come here?

It was always just kind of a feeling I had. I remember I would go on visits. I went to UT and other schools in Texas and they were cool and fun but every time I would come to College Station, I just felt like I belonged here. I felt at home. I just felt comfortable, I loved the place I loved the team. It was just like a feeling that I knew that I should be here.

Tell me about your experience so far at A&M.

It's been great. I mean everyone goes to school when you're a soccer player and you want to be on the best soccer team and stuff like that. And soccer has been great obviously. But even the stuff outside of that, like everyone here is so nice, and so welcoming. It's such a family atmosphere, like you just feel like you belong here. The team has been so great to me along with the coaches, I just love being here.

What are you studying? And when will you graduate?

Psychology. I have like a year and a half left until I graduate.

On the field you generate a lot of attention from the opposing team tell us about that?

My freshman year we had nine seniors and they were all amazing. I came here I wanted to see what kind of role I had on the team. I would just fill in when I was needed. When they all left, my sophomore year, last year there wasn't as many upper classmen, we realized that even though we were sophomores, we have to step up and be a big part of our team. And so with the coaches and stuff, they really helped me. Telling me what to do on the field and since I'm a really intense player I think that draws more attention and teams were like, "oh my gosh, we have to take her down." I think it's pretty awesome because even though people foul me, there is ten other people on the field that can do just as well without me so its nice to know that.

Do you like the physical play?

Yeah, I think that because I'm small, I'm going to get hit and fall down. It's something I've been dealing with since I was little. It's not a new thing, so it hasn't really affected me that much. Last year I was really frustrated I would get a breakaway and I would be like this is my time to score and someone would hit me and I was like why is this happening? But now it's just something I've had to learn to deal with.

You've had some interesting conversations with refs after those fouls, can you tell us about those?

So one of the main things is I like to be protected because I've had a lot of injuries here and there. I know some teams are like lets foul her every time she gets the ball. If the ref doesn't protect me, that's really frustrating for me because their doing everything they can to take me out of the game and it's working but nobody is doing anything to help. So I can get frustrated in that aspect and say I'm not angry with you, but I need you to protect me or I'm going to have to protect myself. Another reason most people don't know is sometimes when our team needs a bit of intensity, I will like yell at the ref and do something because it gets people going and kind of fires them up a little bit so I do that too.

Do you see yourself as one of the leaders on this squad?

On the field, more. Off the field I'm more laid back and easy going and I kind of just go with the flow. On the field, since we have a younger team and I'm an upperclassmen I think its one of my responsibilities to make sure that everyone is playing to the best of their abilities and encouraging them to make sure we can win the game. And letting them know they can get it done.

So this has been a tough year for you guys with injuries and everything what have you learned?

There have been a lot of unfortunate events. You know sometimes you have luck on your side and sometimes you don't, and unfortunately we haven't this year. I think I've just learned that we can overcome things. And it's also giving the people that don't get a lot of playing time their chance to come on the field and participate and stuff, which I think is great. But I've learned that no matter what happens or what obstacles there are, we can overcome them.

Coach G's thoughts on Harvey...

Miki came into a very talented team as a freshman and was a very important part of the team that took us to the Final Four. I think that helped her with her confidence that she could help us beat anyone in the country. Since that class of seniors graduated, she's become the focal point of our team. If you look at a scouting report on Texas A&M, Mikaela Harvey #77 is always a big part of it, because of her ability to control the match, the ability to set other people up, and also the ability to score goals and win games for us on her own shoulders.

She gets beat up a lot during games, does she feed off of that?

She's come a long way. As a youth player, her typical game she'd score a goal, she'd assist two and she'd get a yellow card because the other team would kick her the whole game, and so she'd finally blow her head. It's still a tactic, especially when we get into the SEC, there will be a tactic to kick her and foul her and then yell that she's diving, with bruises and blood coming out. She's really matured a lot. She understands that the reason people are doing that is because they know how good she is and what she means to us. So obviously we want to protect her as much as we can and we want her to protect herself. She's really grown up so much. I think she realizes it's almost a badge of honor to have those bruises on her at the end of the game.





Q&A with

KAYSIE SHEBENECK

BY ROB HAVENS '88

When did you start playing volleyball?

I picked up my first volleyball when I was six years old. My mom was a coach at a high school, she coached the freshman team and she would pick us up from school and take us straight to the gym. I would watch practices and that was fun but then I got a little bit bored (laughs) so I asked my sister if she wanted to play pepper with me but she didn't. So then I picked up a ball and started hitting it against the wall, from then on I have been playing.

Did you play other sports in high school?

Yeah, I was very busy in high school. I played volleyball and then track and then I would swim as a hobby. I did track and field. I participated in shot put and high jump, no running for me.

You were selected as the Gatorade Player of the Year twice?

It was such a privilege and an honor to have been chosen two years in a row as the Gatorade Player of the Year for the state of Wisconsin. When you qualify for it, you have to be active in the community, have good grades and academics and be a leader on the court as well. There is a lot of thought going into the application for it, and I was very honored that I was chosen for it. I had around 25 people write me letters of recommendation for it. I earned it two years in a row. It was one of the most awesome awards that I have ever been given. It meant a lot to me, and the community that I was helping out.

So how did you decide to come to A&M?

Recruiting is very, very crazy. Schools are always wanting you to visit because there is such a small time frame that you can actually communicate with them. So I would go on unofficial visits a lot. But my mom would actually have me call schools at least twice a week, she'd make me call like 20 schools in a row, there was so many. She texted me one day and said there was a school that wanted me to call them, and it was Texas A&M. I had never heard of Texas A&M before. I knew Texas, like UT and that's it. So when she told me to call A&M I was like this is going to be some small school and this is not what I want. There is nothing there. So then I called Texas A&M and it was our old assistant coach Steve Green who was on the phone and we were talking about volleyball and everything. He asked me what was the hardest thing for me in the game of volleyball and I said defense is really hard and he said that's ok you're a setter. And setters have this connotation that they're not very good at defense. When I started researching a little bit more I realized that A&M was not a small school and then I came down for my visit, I absolutely fell in love with it. The Corbelli's were great and they showed me around campus. I fell in love with all of the traditions. I like to try to compare it to trying on a wedding dress; I've never done that (laughs). But once you step on campus at A&M you know that's the school for you. That's what I got as soon as I came here; you just know that's the school you want to go to.

Talk about your time here.

It's been really fun (laughs). I've been able to be active around the community, not with just students but adults as well. I teach English at a community center in Bryan. And that's really rewarding to see so many people making progress. A&M has

given me so many opportunities to grow. That's been the most impactful thing during my time at A&M. I just love the traditions, I love the people, and everyone is so smiley. Coming from Wisconsin to Texas is also so different; it was such a good change for me because it was a new thing. A&M is just awesome!

Coach Corbelli talked to me about how selfless you are.

Oh gosh (blushes) That is so nice.

She said you came here to A&M hoping to start but during your time here that you never got down; you always stayed positive and always had a team first mentality.

Well definitely you come to college after being a stud in high school (laughs) you expect and you want to play and contribute to the team in every way that you can. And getting on the court is the main way that people see your contribution. But I've just had so many people in front of me that I play with that are so amazing and so great at volleyball that I don't mind if it's the best thing for the team. That is totally fine with me. I really try to focus on putting the team first because even if I'm not making a physical contribution in the way that I play, like I'm hustling in practice, I'm working hard and I hope I'm inspiring others to do the same. But you just have to stay positive because it's a team sport and we are all one team and we all have one dream to succeed.

What is your major and what do you hope to do after school?

I'm a Spanish and International Studies double major with a minor in Communication. So it's a lot of things. I've been teaching English since high school as a volunteer assistant and a lead teacher here at the community center. Every week I teach English for a hour to foreign students and spouses that are graduate students they already have PHD's in like Engineering and all of these other scientific majors, so they are like way smarter than I am but they listen to me teach English for an hour. So it's really rewarding to see their progress as I teach them.

You got to study abroad this summer for 10 weeks in Chile and travelled to Peru and Argentina. What are your plans for the future?

As far as the future goes I'm not sure exactly what I want to do. I love language and culture and interacting with people so I want to do something in that realm. A lot of people have told me to go teach abroad. I might coach, I might go play abroad. I don't know what the future has in store for me. Hopefully it will all work out.

What is your favorite Aggie Tradition?

I like the yells! Mostly because I like to do them myself. And I like the Aggie Ring of course, that's just something so significant.

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Competitive Climbing Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

Texas A&M's new Competitive Climbing Club may be one of the most unique clubs at Texas A&M. If you've ever tried rock climbing, you know that it takes a lot of strength and endurance just to get up the wall. We asked club president Ryan Schmidt what makes a great climber. "On top of impeccable technique, a great competition climber physically has stamina, endurance, and raw power," he said. "Being able to stay mentally calm on the wall, move with decisiveness, commit to intimidating movements, and come up with creative solutions to routes is also very important. It doesn't hurt to be social and talk to other people about how to do a climb, either."

Schmidt said local and regional

competitions are conducted in what is known as "redpoint" style. Each event usually has about 80-100 climbers and about 60-100 climbing routes. Each of the routes is marked with a certain color of tape, and they all vary in difficulty. People who create the routes decide the difficulty (ranging from 5.7 to 5.13, typically) and then assign a point value based on how hard it is. Competitors can climb as many routes as they like but will only be scored on their top five routes. The goal is to get as many points as possible out of those top five routes within the time limit, which is usually three or four hours. A surprising amount of strategy is exercised at these competitions, such as watching other competitors climb first to see how it's done, knowing how long to rest in between trying routes, finding your own creative solutions, knowing your limits, keeping track of time, and handling failure.

Schmidt is the sole founder of the competition team, having gained experience from a youth competition

team he was a part of in Dallas. He created all of the exercises, rules and structure from years of previous experience and formed the competition team to compete with the best. The club currently consists of sixty members, with a subset of twenty-one on the competition team.

The club requires one year of experience in order to protect its members from injuries that can sometimes result from the drills that are performed. A beginner's program designed to prepare the club's members to transition to the competition team is also available.

Last year the Texas A&M Competitive Climbing team made its first appearance at nationals as a competitive squad and was able to walk away with a second place finish. It was tough for Schmidt to come up with a single favorite moment, but he shared with us, "Blasting the Rocky theme song in the car right before we arrive at a competition..." is always a great experience.



Golf Club

BY ROB HAVENS '88

One of the newest clubs Rec Sports has to offer is the Texas A&M Golf Club. According to club president Lee Tillman, the club was started in 2012 by a group of talented golfers that wanted to continue to compete.

Tillman, who joined the club in 2014 and was elected president the following year, worked hard with the other officers to transition the organization from a regular student club to a recognized Sport Club through the Department of Recreational Sports. Serving as president was a goal for Tillman as he had been looking for leadership opportunities at Texas A&M.

The club currently has thirty-three active members that practice at least two

times per week. Tillman loves the fact that he can send out a group text during the week and instantly receive multiple responses, ensuring that he never has to golf alone. Having teammates to play a round with is always enjoyable.

The team's main opponents are Baylor, Texas, and the Golf Academy of America-Dallas. The Aggies also play against six other teams in the region, as well.

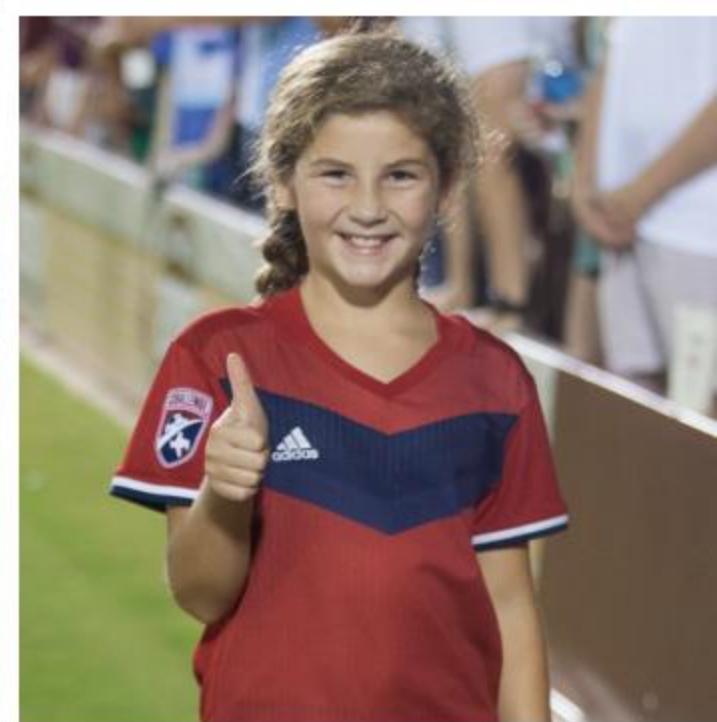
The team is currently competing for an opportunity to qualify for Nationals at the Walt Disney Resort in Florida. Tillman told AI that his fondest memory with

the team so far is his trip to the 2015 National Tournament in North Carolina. "That road trip was one of the most fun college experiences that I have had."



Visit recsports.tamu.edu for more info about Texas A&M Sport Clubs.

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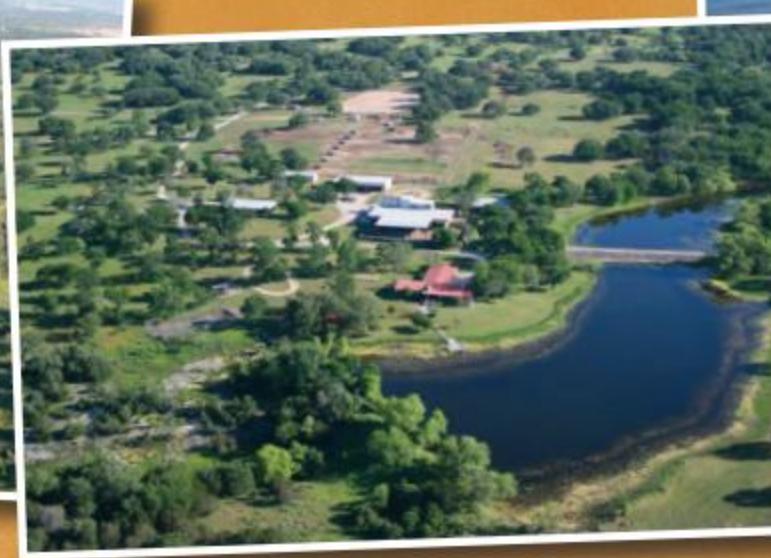
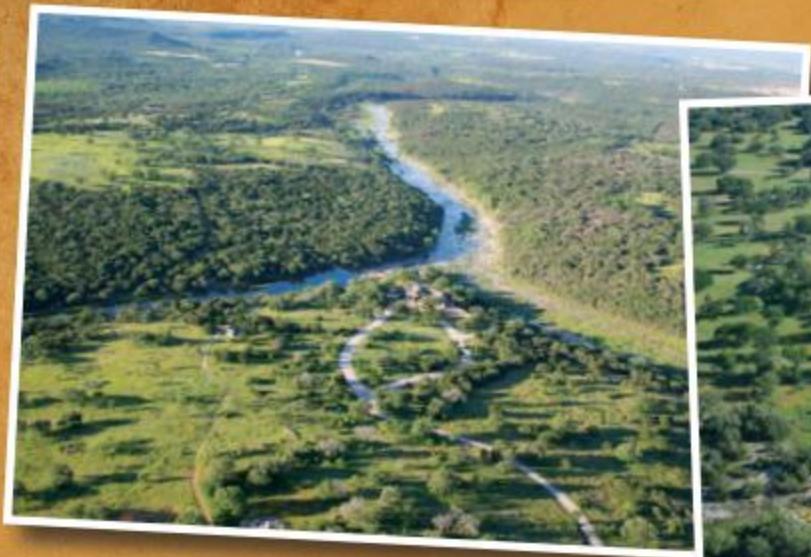
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